



September 28, 2011

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington DC 20590

Secretary LaHood,

I write this letter today on behalf of Carhartt Inc. to support the Commonwealth of Kentucky's application for TIGER III grant funding for the development of Interstate 69 in western Kentucky. KYTC hopes to upgrade 27 miles of the Julian Carroll-Purchase Parkway from I-24 to US 45 in Mayfield to I-69 status.

I-69 is a multi-state corridor that promises significant economic development in seven states. Unlike other states, the majority of I-69 will follow existing four-lane fully controlled access parkways. SIU6 consists of upgrading the Julian Carroll-Purchase Parkway to maximize the use of the existing system. This will save tax payers hundreds of millions of dollars.

I-69 equates to economic development. Seventeen of the nation's top 25 seaports will be directly connected to Interstate 69. Fifteen of the nation's top 25 air cargo airports will be directly accessible to I-69. Studies show I-69 will return \$1.63 for every dollar invested. From Houston to Indianapolis, I-69 will create 27,000 jobs, add \$11 billion in wages and produce \$19 billion in value added through 2025. Additionally, there are more than 10.5 million people living below the poverty level in the seven I-69 states.

Thank you for your consideration of Kentucky's TIGER III grant application to upgrade much of SIU6 to become Interstate 69. Carhartt Inc. is excited by the prospect of seeing such a large section of this vital project be open soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Cothran".

Chris Cothran
Senior Logistics Manager

Copies: Governor Steve Beshear
Senator Mitch McConnell
Congressman Ed Whitfield